A WORD ABOUT FINGERING

You will read some modern books that say that fingering is a personal thing and you should do what feels best. I guarantee you that advice is ONLY for experienced pianists.

It is absolutely VITAL that beginners follow CORRECT fingering for several reasons

1. Beginners tend to use their ‘strong’ fingers and avoid using the weaker fingers like the fourth or small fingers. These fingers then NEVER get stronger.

2. Beginners don’t realise that correct fingering may have a future purpose they can’t see yet such as freeing up a finger to allow your to go easily into another pattern or run.

3. If you use the SAME fingering for certain exercises your hand and brain get far more proficient at the exercise. More so than if you kept using any old fingering.

Most beginners get concerned as to which finger to use on the BLACK keys. The advice given by Tim Richards in his excellent book Exploring Jazz Piano is this..

- Use the same fingering in every octave
- Use the same fingering in both directions
- Never use the same finger for consecutive notes
- Avoid placing the thumb on a black note

He goes on to say ‘the last rule is often broken - when a scale contains mainly black notes you will have to use the thumb on some of them’.